

Message Text

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42

ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SCA-01 EB-11 CAB-09 L-03 COME-00

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----- 105170

R 171246Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1739

AMEMBASSY LONDON

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

UNCLAS MOSCOW 12632

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, UR

SUBJ: BRITISH TRAVEL AGENCY'S BANKRUPTCY MAY STRAND MANY AMCIT
TOURISTS IN USSR

1. BRITISH EMBASSY MOSCOW INFORMED CONSOFF AUG. 17 THAT BRIT TRAVEL AGENCY COURTLINE COMPANY HAD DECLARED BANKRUPTCY AND AS RESULT, AT LEAST 184 PERSONS NOW TRAVELLING IN GROUPS SCATTERED AROUND THE USSR AS MEMBERS OF COURTLINE SUBSIDIARY HORIZON TOURS MAY BE STRANDED. SUCH GROUPS ARE KNOWN PRESENTLY TO BE IN MOSCOW, LENINGRAD AND KIEV, AND OTHER GROUPS ARE BELIEVED TO BE IN OTHER CITIES. BRIT EMBOFF BELIEVES SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF TOURISTS MAY BE AMCITS, AND ESTIMATES AS MANY AS 50 AMCITS IN KIEV GROUP ALONE. ALTHOUGH NO TOURISTS HAVE YET CONTACTED EMBASSY, LENINGRAD CONSULATE HAS BEEN INFORMED OF SITUATION BY GROUP MEMBERS IN THAT CITY.

2. BRIT EMBASSY FURTHER ADVISED THAT INTOURIST, WHICH HAS JUST LEARNED OF BANKRUPTCY, HAS DEMANDED PAYMENT FOR USSR PORTION OF TOUR FROM INDIVIDUAL TOURISTS, THREATENING TO CEASE SERVICE AND DENY PERMISSION FOR TOURISTS TO DEPART USSR UNTIL PAYMENT MADE. BRIT EMBOFF STATED HE WAS ATTEMPTING ASCERTAIN WHETHER ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH TRAVEL AGENTS IN LONDON WOULD AGREE SETTLE DISPUTE WITH INTOURIST ON BEHALF OF BANKFUPT AGENCY,
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AND THAT HE WOULD INFORM EMBASSY OF ANY DEVELOPMENTS. COMMENT:

UNLESS LATTER SOURCE IS FORTHCOMING, EMBASSY ANTICIPATES FLOCK
OF REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM STRANDED TOURISTS.
END COMMENT.

3. FOR LONDON: ANY INFORMATION ON LIKELIHOOD THAT BRITISH TRAVEL
AGENTS ASSOCIATION OR ANY OTHER LONDON SOURCE WILL
ATTEMPT SETTLE MATTER WOULD BE APPRECIATED. EMBASSY WOULD ALSO
BE GRATEFUL FOR LIST OF AMCIT MEMBERS OF HORIZON TOURS
WHO MAY NOW BE IN USSR.
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